

CAPTAIN OYSTER SEVERELY FLAYS DISTRICT OFFICIALS

Charges Inefficiency in Caus-
tic Letter to Com-
missioners.

ARCHITECT'S OFFICE PARTICULAR TARGET

Board of Education Chairman
Says Delays Are In-
excusable.

One of the most severe criticisms ever aimed against the District government and its executive heads is contained in a letter to the Commissioners, made public today, by Capt. James F. Oyster, president of the Board of Education.

Captain Oyster charges "inefficiency in at least one branch of the District government," characterizes delays in completing additions to schools as "inexcusable," and accuses Commissioner West of having published in the daily papers a letter "extolling his own virtues."

The letter was read to the Board of Education yesterday afternoon as the best answer to complaints registered through the Columbia Heights Citizens' Association regarding the delay in completing the addition to the Johnson and Monroe schools. This letter is the latest and the most biting of a series of heated communications between the heads of the District government and the president of the Board of Education. It is believed it will destroy all chance of a reconciliation in the near future which many friends of Captain Oyster and the Commissioners had hoped to bring about, despite the strained relations existing at some time.

The letter was received with expressions of marked approval by the Board of Education, as was evident at various times during its reading. This approval is taken to mean that the board will stand solidly behind its president if war is declared between him and the Commissioners.

To Commissioner West.

The letter is written to Commissioner West, who was, on October 23, when the letter is dated, acting president of the Board of Commissioners.

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, on October 22, of your communication, dated October 20," Captain Oyster wrote, "regarding the inexcusable delay in the construction of the Johnson annex and Monroe addition. This was two days after I was aware of a portion of its contents, through your publication in the daily papers of this city of this section of the letter extolling your own virtue. Had you published the whole letter I would have raised no objection whatever, as the citizens of Washington, and particularly those living on Columbia Heights, in the neighborhood of the Johnson and Monroe schools, would have been informed by you of the reasons why the Board of Education has been prevented from providing proper school accommodations for the children of that neighborhood, although the initial action toward such result was taken by the board when it made up the public school estimates in the summer and fall of 1907. In your letter you acknowledge that a period of two years and two months, after the appropriation became available, will be required to complete a four-room addition to the Monroe School. Your explanation of this procrastination is that all such work must be 'handed in a business-like manner.'"

In the next paragraph Captain Oyster launches into a severe arraignment of "one branch of the District government."

"The Board of Education," he continued, "is willing to leave it to the judgment of the community as to whether there is anything business-like in such a waste of time. Certainly, no man with any appreciation of even elementary business principles would apply such dilatory, destructive, and costly methods in the conduct of his own business and expect results; yet, you apply such methods and content yourself with the idea that this means 'an orderly, business-like manner.'"

WEATHER REPORT.

The principal disturbance this morning is centered in the far Northwest, but it has not yet caused any appreciable precipitation this side of the Rocky mountains. The storm which recently moved down the Saint Lawrence valley to the Gulf of Saint Lawrence has increased considerably in energy, and remains nearly stationary off the Grand Banks.

A tropical disturbance is developing west of Cuba.

The crest of the cool wave has now reached the middle and north Atlantic States, where the temperature has fallen considerably.

Showers are indicated for the western lake region, but mostly fair weather will prevail elsewhere east of the Mississippi.

FORECAST FOR THE DISTRICT.

Fair and continued cool tonight. Saturday fair with rising temperature; moderate north to northwest winds, becoming variable.

TEMPERATURES.

| | |
|----------|----|
| 8 a. m. | 38 |
| 9 a. m. | 41 |
| 10 a. m. | 42 |
| 11 a. m. | 43 |
| Noon | 45 |
| 1 p. m. | 46 |
| 2 p. m. | 46 |

SUN TABLE.

| | |
|------------|------|
| Sun rises. | 6:23 |
| Sun sets. | 5:03 |

TIDE TABLE.

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Today—High tide, 8:10 a. m. and 8:30 p. m.; low tide, 2:15 a. m. and 2:30 p. m. |
| Tomorrow—High tide, 9 a. m. and 9:14 p. m.; low tide, 3:05 a. m. and 3:14 p. m. |

CONDITION OF THE WATER.
HARPER'S FERRY, Va., Oct. 29.—Both rivers are slightly cloudy this morning.

Molding, 200 Varieties, 1c a Foot.
Frank Libbey & Co., 6th & N. Y. Ave.
—Adv.

LOEB UNDER FIRE IN MANY QUARTERS FOR CUSTOM PROBE

Fight Waged by Politicians
Who Wish to Create
Diversion.

WASHINGTON END WORRIES FRIENDS

Collector Not Absolutely Sure of
Backing, As Investigation Was
Not Authorized.

That Collector William Loeb, Jr., of the port of New York, former secretary to the President, has stirred up no end of trouble for himself in connection with his efforts to ferret out the customs frauds in New York, is the belief here.

Just how the matter will end is speculative. It is clear, however, that a big fight is to be waged on Mr. Loeb as a punishment for his efforts.

This fight is in part political and in part is prompted by interests which are anxious to create a diversion and turn attention from the rottenness of the customs situation at New York.

The immediate cause of the attack on Mr. Loeb is the fact that he has promised immunity to certain weighers at New York who have confessed to short weighing, and have implicated others; and that he has further retained these men in the service. Judge Holt the other day went out of his way to score the retention of dishonest weighers in severe terms. Since then Mr. Loeb has been bitterly criticised in newspapers and otherwise.

Backing Up Loeb.

Treasury officials are backing up Mr. Loeb, in so far as the promises of immunity are concerned, and in connection with his efforts generally to ferret out frauds. But it is asserted on high authority that Mr. Loeb was not authorized by the Treasury to promise the weighers they would be retained.

This raises the question whether in case of severe and long-continued criticism, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Administration will stand by Mr. Loeb with respect to the retention of the dishonest weighers. Mr. Loeb is keeping several of them in office, and his position is that it was only by promising them immunity and telling them they would be shielded from discharge that the exposures were possible.

Assailed in New York.

A Treasury official said today that it was going to be made extremely uncomfortable for Mr. Loeb by his enemies in New York. He indicated that the Treasury Department approved Mr. Loeb's action, generally speaking, leaving out the question of retention of weighers. But he pointed out that Mr. Loeb had a host of political enemies, made in the Roosevelt regime, and that big interests affected by the customs exposures would do their best to make trouble for him.

It is expected here that the question of retention of the weighers will be forced on the attention of President Taft when he gets back here. Then the interesting question will arise whether he will say Mr. Loeb went too far in retaining the weighers who confessed. Another possibility is that the matter will be stirred up in Congress when that body meets. Some talk is heard of speeches reflecting on Mr. Loeb's course. The former secretary to the President has this advantage in the controversy, that he became perfectly used to fights in the days when he was in the White House with Mr. Roosevelt and he is showing no disposition whatever to retreat under fire.

LAFOLLETTE LIKENS CANNON TO A WOLF

Wisconsin Senator Declares
the Speaker's Days Are
Numbered.

MADISON, Wis., Oct. 29.—Liking Joseph G. Cannon to a grim old wolf whose fangs are long, United States Senator La Follette publishes another attack on the Speaker in this week's issue of La Follette's Weekly Magazine.

The editorials was called forth by Cannon's recent speech at Elgin, Ill., in which he attempted to read out of the Republican party Cummings, La Follette and the other tariff bill "insurgents." The editorial says in part:

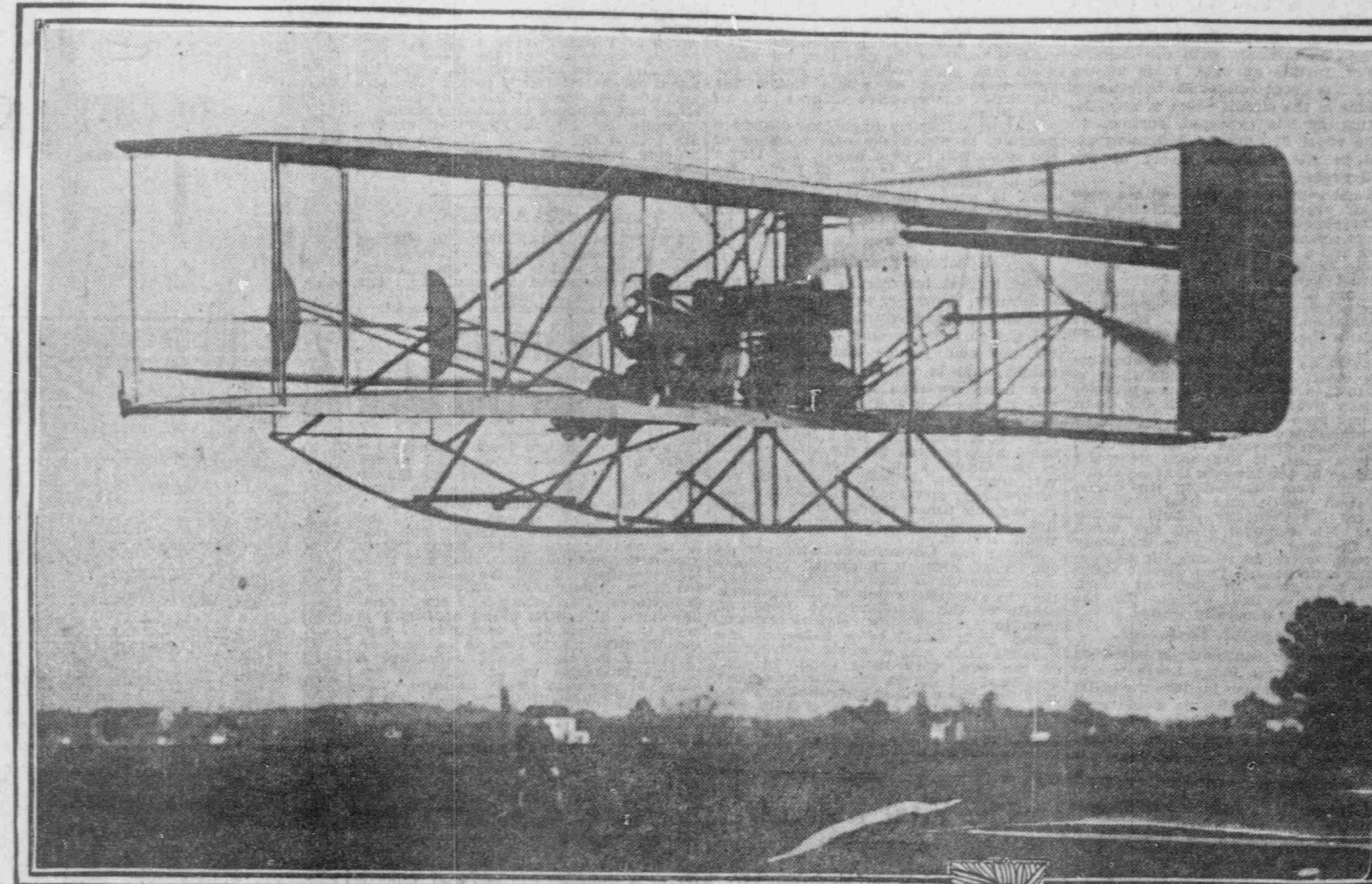
"Speaker Cannon served notice that he means to purge the threshold floor of the Republican party of such chaff as Cummings, La Follette and their followers." By these terms Cannon describes the progressives, who, of course, are followers of neither Cummings nor La Follette, but of their own unbought and unsubdued minds.

"These people," Speaker Cannon is reported to have said, "call themselves Republicans, but if they are, then I am something else."

"If Cannon is a Republican, these progressives are not. If Cannon is a Republican, Lincoln, Sumner, and George W. Curtis, and Carl Schurz, and the men who followed Sherman and Grant, and the commanders they followed and the founders of the Republican party, were not Republicans."

"If Cannon is a Republican, Tammany is Republican, and so is Cox, of Cincinnati; Sullivan, 'Bath House John,' of Manhattan; 'Bath House John,' of Chicago, and the powers that prey everywhere."

First Photograph of Wright's Pupils Flying Alone



LIEUTENANTS HUMPHREYS, FULUIS, LAHM.

WRIGHT'S PUPILS IN SHORT FLIGHT

Strong Wind Causes Aviation Students to End Trial.

Lieutenants Lahm and Humphreys, Wright's two promising pupils, showed their independence of their teacher at the College Park school of applied aeronautics this morning, by making one short flight together.

After about one minute of tying the wind freshened and the flying lesson ended abruptly. The officers contemplated a flight later this afternoon, although the wind howled around College Park at a thirty-mile-an-hour gait most of the morning, and didn't look as if it intended to subside.

The flight began at 7:50. Although Lieutenant Lahm experienced a little difficulty in cranking up the engine, and although the starting rope came near colliding with one of the propellers, on the whole, the aeronautics critics thought that Mr. Lahm was showing exceptionally good form for a pupil.

There was a nine-mile wind blowing up the track when the weight fell and the machine went into the air, before it had traversed more than eighty feet on the rail, making one of the most sudden starts yet seen at College Park.

Lieutenant Humphreys operated the controls. He made only half a circle and came down at the west end of the field, not wishing to make the turn there with that wind on his beam. Before the machine was back in the shed the wind was up still higher, and by 9 o'clock it was making thirty miles an hour.

NEW SEA-FIGHTER RETURNS TO DOCK

Dreadnought North Dakota Will Make Official Speed Test Next Week.

BOSTON, Oct. 29.—America's second Dreadnought, the battleship North Dakota, is in drydock here today at the Charlestown navy yard after her maiden run yesterday from Quincy, where she was built, to Provincetown.

On that run the big sea-fighter was put through her builder's test to ascertain if she was able to exceed her contract speed of twenty-one knots, but no information was given out.

The North Dakota will remain in drydock here for some days, preparing for her official trial off the Maine coast next week.

TAMMANY'S BEST BOSS IN NEW YORK ON EVE ELECTION

Old Guard Thinks He May
Oust Murphy If Organi-
zation Loses.

ENEMIES MAY GET ESTIMATE BOARD

One Tiger Leader Expresses Fear
for Outcome—Absurd,
Says Murphy.

NEW YORK, Oct. 29.—Richard Croker, successor of John Kelly as head of Tammany Hall, and admittedly the best, or worst, boss, according to the viewpoint, Tammany ever had, returned to this country today for a winter stay.

With election four days off, naturally the tongue of the old guard wagged lively, and again the opinion was expressed that the aged chieftain wearied for the game again and planned, should Tammany lose next week, to have Murphy ousted and himself reinstated in the Fourteenth street wigwam. But none of these dreams found confirmation in the Croker attitude.

Looks Much Younger.

Bright and fresh, looking twenty years younger than when he abandoned this city for his farm in Ireland, the veteran politician smiled on the interviewers as the giant Mauretania came up the bay.

"Out of politics? Why not?" he replied when asked if he still retained the position he took on his last trip here. "I suppose it is too much to expect the newspapers to let up on that question, but really it is becoming tiresome. I was active in public affairs for a long time. I did my share, and I think I earned the right to enjoy my rest in the sunset of my life. I can't see here to have a good time. I will go to the Democratic Club for a few days, and then will go on to Florida. You know that I have a place at Palm Beach. I like to fish, and intend to go there to fish, not to play at politics."

Deplores Mud Slinging.

"By the way, how is election going, anyhow?" he suddenly asked.

He was told that all three candidates were campaigning to the limit and that there was a great deal of mud slinging.

"Too bad, too bad," he said, "that is the grave fault of our elections."

"Bourke Cockran went about three days ago," Mr. Croker said, "and I viewed, and he declared the campaign was too indecent, as the result of mud slinging for the nominees."

"Bourke said that," asked Croker with a smile. "That's funny. Such things should not have affected him in the least."

Met By Nephew.

The former boss was met at the pier by his nephew, Fire Chief Edward F. Croker, and many enthusiastic friends. After a general hand-shaking he went to the Democratic Club on Fifth avenue, where he will stay until the latter part of next week. He declared that it will "feel good" to be in New York another election day and watch the crowds, even though he would have no personal interest in the contest.

Croker declared that the outlook for racing abroad is better than ever, and that he still has in his stables at Wantage some high-class horses. He declared that the report he was to retire from the turf because he had been deceived by the bookmakers and by his own trainers was absurd.

"I will win another Derby before I retire," he said, "and I am not so sure that the winner of next year's big event is not in my barn now."

EXPECT TROUBLE FROM FUSIONISTS

NEW YORK, Oct. 29.—With the confidential canvasses of their district leaders in their possession, the campaign managers today began the preparation of the "official forecasts," which will issue tonight and "prove" to the uninitiated just who will be elected next Tuesday.

That is, the managers for Bannard and Hearst will do so, but Charles F. Murphy will refuse, and Murphy has a good reason. While he believes privately, and insists publicly, that Gaynor will be elected, he is not sure about the remainder of the ticket.

This is due to the leaders in their reports declaring that the "silent vote" this year will be the largest in the city's history. Every effort to line up this vote has been useless, and Tammany hopes for the best, but is preparing for the worst.

Expect a Landslide.

"We may strike a landslide that will swing through our entire ticket," declared one of the Tiger leaders today; "and we are doing all we can to get it, but the cry of a Tammany landslide is having its effect, and although our candidates for president of the board of aldermen and comptroller are straight business men of the best reputation, I personally think they will be defeated."

"Gaynor, I think, will be elected mayor, and we will carry Manhattan, the Bronx, and Queens borough, but will lose Brooklyn and Richmond. This will give the fusionists the board of estimate."

When Leader Murphy, of Tammany, was asked about this statement, he characterized it as absurd.

"The entire Tammany ticket will be elected," he said. "Every day improves our chances."

Refuses to Give Figures.

He refused point blank, however, to give out any figures, and became peevish when asked to indicate what he thought his ticket would get. Murphy is angry with Judge Gaynor because the latter, in a speech last night, declared if a hostile board of estimate is elected he will resign.

Gaynor has said this several times, and Tammanyites are now beginning

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)